



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #14 – July 16, 2002

Holden Signs Homeland Security Bill

Approximately 70 legislators, department heads, employees and members of the press corps attended Governor Holden's Homeland Security bill signing ceremony at the State Emergency Operations Center at State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). Homeland security was an issue Holden outlined as a priority this year. With the signing of SB 712, Missourians can know that the state now has policy in place that will allow it to act swiftly and efficiently in the event of a disaster.

"Homeland security was on everyone's mind this year," Holden said. "Since the events of September 11, Missouri has been working closely with federal and local officials to ensure that Missouri is as prepared as possible."



Note from Tim Daniel, Homeland Security Advisor

We are still waiting for the federal planning guidelines in anticipation of a terrorism grant. I intend to work with SEMA and to conduct regional planning meetings upon receipt of grant guidance.

State Agency Tabletop Terrorism Exercise Conducted

Approximately 100 state agency personnel participated in a terrorism tabletop exercise conducted at SEMA by RAM and Associates of New York. The players were divided into four groups with each group composed of members of the emergency response, medical, law enforcement communities as well as other state agencies.

There were three distinct movements with enough clues to lead participants astray if they did not follow their plan. The first movement revolved around a chickenpox outbreak at the height of flu season, and a spring flooding disaster response. The second movement focused on a chickenpox epidemic, introduction of a suspicious rash, possible water contamination and agricultural disease. The final movement identified the plague disbursed via the air conditioning system at a major business building. Excellent discussions were generated between local officials, the local responders with their state counterparts. In case you are wondering, we did stick to the "plan."

Upcoming Area Coordinator Meetings Set

- Area "A" will have their next meeting at 10 a.m. at the Harrisonville Fire Department on September 5.
- Area "E" will have their next meeting at 11 a.m. in Sikeston on August 2.

Heat Deaths in Missouri

Missouri has experienced at least six heat-related deaths this summer. Dust off the Heat and Lightning Awareness Campaign information mailed in May. There is still a month and half of "summer" weather before the weather starts cooling off. Campaign information can be downloaded from the SEMA homepage at www.sema.state.mo.us Reacquaint yourself with the information, and then go talk to your local newspapers, radios or television stations.

Some SEMA Classes Need Participants

The SEMA Training Section is looking for participants to attend the following classes that might be in danger of being canceled because of lack of attendance. If you are interested in attending one of these classes, please register on line at the SEMA homepage or download the application and fax it to Susan Rhoades in Training at: (573) 634-7966.

NOTE: according The SEMA Training Officer, Jim Charrier, the new training schedule will be out by end of July or the first part of August.

• 7/23-24	Disaster Related Needs of Seniors	Park Hills	3
• 8/13-14	ICS Advanced	Cape	0
• 9/4-5	Developing Volunteer Resources	Hannibal	12
• 9/10-12	ICS Basic	CEMA	12
• 9/18-19	Resource Management	CEMA	5
• 9/28-30	Community Emergency Response Team	Ellington	3

Spring Flooding Disaster Update

As of July 15, disaster officials report that federal disaster aid approved for Missouri has increased to almost \$11.5 million as the deadline to apply for assistance approaches. The number of counties included in President Bush's May 6 disaster declaration is currently 79. Of those, nine are eligible for Individual Assistance programs only, 31 for the Public Assistance program only and 39 for both forms of assistance.

Individual Assistance Figures

Individual Assistance includes grants to help pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the SBA are the primary form of assistance available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance. Assistance approved to date includes:

- 1,608 applications for assistance received
- 921 disaster housing grants totaling \$1,623,551
- 1,212 housing inspections issued; 1,204 completed
- SBA loan applications approved total \$5,046,500
- Individual and Family Grants total \$1,211,906

Public Assistance Update

SEMA's Disaster Assistance Branch Chief Chuck May is reviewing the documentation on disaster scope of work projects in 70 counties from the spring tornadoes and flooding. May urges local officials to "document, document, document!" all invoices, emergency disaster overtime, related expenses, disaster bids, contracts, and then photograph work in progress. After a contract is let, document all work by contractors. "If you are documenting debris removal, note the number of full loads versus the number of partial loads."

Mitigation Project Deadline Is July 19

SEMA's Deputy Director, Buck Katt, sent a statewide letter requesting mitigation projects with a major emphasis on cost beneficial buyouts. The projects must be submitted to State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Sheela Amin, no later than July 19 to be considered for funding. The projects along with supporting documentation should be mailed to Sheela Amin c/o SEMA, P. O. Box 116, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0116.

Safety Alert-Secondary Explosive Devices

SOURCE: HQ Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), Washington D.C.

There has been a recent increase in the use of flashlights as housings for explosive devices in the United States and its territories. Essentially, individuals have booby-trapped flashlights and left them at the crime scenes, bomb and arson scenes or where their intended victim will find them. To date, these devices have killed one law enforcement officer, injured several and injured a number of civilians.

The flashlights are generally metal, like the Mag-lite or Kell-lite. The batteries are removed and a small pipe bomb is inserted into the housing. The bomber then rigs the flashlight in one of two ways, either wiring the flashlight to explode when the switch is activated or setting the bomb to trigger if it is moved, by use of a purchased

or improvised mercury switch. A Mag-lite rigged with an improvised motion switch claimed the life of a Puerto Rican Peace Officer.

While conducting a crime scene search, or in any circumstance when a flashlight is encountered where it is not expected, leave the light alone. If the owner is located, allow the owner to take custody of the light. If no owner can be found contact the local bomb squad. Do not attempt to open or examine the light yourself. If the bomb squad tries to laugh at you, remind them that the Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearm division has reported finding about 20 of these in past years and tell them you're not going to touch it. Share this information with local first responders and local law enforcement agencies.

“Dirty Bomb” Action Plan Considerations

The new terrorism worries are radiological encapsulated explosion commonly referred to as “dirty bombs”. The following points need to be considered in developing a response plan.

- Secure the area in and around the explosion as you would any bomb site
- This is crime scene. Be aware terrorists might plant a secondary device to explode after first responders arrive. Incident command should be located upwind.
- Life safety measures should be paramount. Assist the injured and removed them to a safe area. The amount of radiation you could encounter in this form of attack would not be an immediate life risk to either the rescuer or the victim.
- Anyone entering the immediate explosion area and downwind area should wear protective clothing. At a minimum, tyvek suits, rubber gloves (double sets), rubber boots – standard gear for radiological monitoring. A particulate mask would be helpful but not mandatory.
- Victims needing immediate hospitalization should be evacuated from the area using standard radiological protocols where available. Cocoon the patient, remove the outer clothing and bag it for disposal. By removing the outer clothing, you will remove most of the radiological materials. Please note: cocooning the patient is wrapping the patient in blankets so that contamination will not spread.
- Use a hot zone /cold zone to transport patients from a hot zone to an uncontaminated area. Scan patients leaving the hot zone with a radiological survey instrument. Make sure anything you use in the hot zone stays in the hot zone.
- Do not try to remove/recover bodies without a coroner/medical examiner available, unless it is to get a living person to medical attention. Remember this is a crime scene and crucial evidence may be lodged in the bodies.
- Animals coming out of the contaminated area should be impounded as they may be contaminated and will have to be decontaminated prior to release to their owners (or to the wild).
- Responding departments should monitor the area in a manner similar to hazardous materials spills and prevent where possible, streams and other liquids from flowing into critical areas.

Considerations for the area downwind from the explosion:

- Radiological monitors (using CDV-700s or equivalent equipment) should plot out the deposition curves of the radiological fallout. If you don't have trained radiological monitors please contact SEMA or the Department of Health and Senior Services. These agencies have trained monitors for assistance or technical advice.
- Isolate the area that is determined to have radiological fallout from the bomb. The radiological monitors should set up perimeter controls to the area.
- After consulting with health physicists concerning the zone of contamination and whether to shelter in place or evacuate, citizens should be advised of decision and appropriate safety actions.
- Stress the response team needs to stress to the public to remain calm in order to minimize loss of life from things other than the direct effects of the explosion.
- Public needs to be reassured they will be allowed to return to the area. It may take a while to decontaminate the area, but eventually they will be allowed to return once radiological levels are brought below levels stipulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Governor's Advisory Committee for 9-1-1 Service Oversight

The committee will meet on September 10, 2002 in conjunction with the Annual Missouri Association of Public Safety Communications Officers (MoAPCO) meeting in St. Louis. The committee will review the results of the August election in regards to Proposition A. Proposition A places a \$.50 a month fee on the bill for each wireless instrument. Revenues are supposed to be directed to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in the area of residence for the bill.

Free mapping software for homeland security

MapInfo is giving away \$1.3 million worth of mapping software and data to small-and medium-sized cities that are developing homeland security initiatives. As part of the company's Homeland Security and Continuity of Government Grant Program, 100 cities each will receive software and data valued at \$12,835.

Cities with populations up to 75,000 have until Oct. 31, 2002, to submit applications for the grants. Cities with populations up to 150,000 can submit applications between Aug. 1 and Oct. 31. The company will award grants on a first-come, first-served basis, and it will give preference to cities that currently do not use the company's software. The software and data must be used for homeland security and/or public safety initiatives.

For more information and details about the application process, visit the Mapinfo home page at: www.mapinfo.com/industry/government/homeland_security_grant.cfm

Beware of Consultants Offering WMD Related Services!

The events of 9/11 have affected us all in different ways. It has also affected the way many consultants, contractors and salesman conduct their business affairs. There are a lot of good companies on the street offering legitimate services and products, however along with the good comes the bad.

For example, recently a consulting company mass mailed counties reminding EMDs to get their "plan" into SEMA by July 31, 2002 to be eligible for the FY02 DOJ Grant, they even offered their services to write the plan. This is not the way the state runs the DOJ Grant program. Another company is offering a detector that identifies the "presents" (not my misspelling, that is how it was spelled on the glossy advertisement), of anthrax and a couple other biological agents within 15 minutes. As of this date CDC does not recognize any anthrax detection device. The bottom line is "buyer beware."

Please contact Tom Mohr, Public Safety Manager, SEMA, 573-526-9245 email me at tmohr@sema.state.mo.us if you have any questions concerning any WMD products or services